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Wildernesses and Primitive Areas in Southwestern National Forests



United States
Department of
Agriculture

PREPARED BY
Forest
Service

Southwestern
Region

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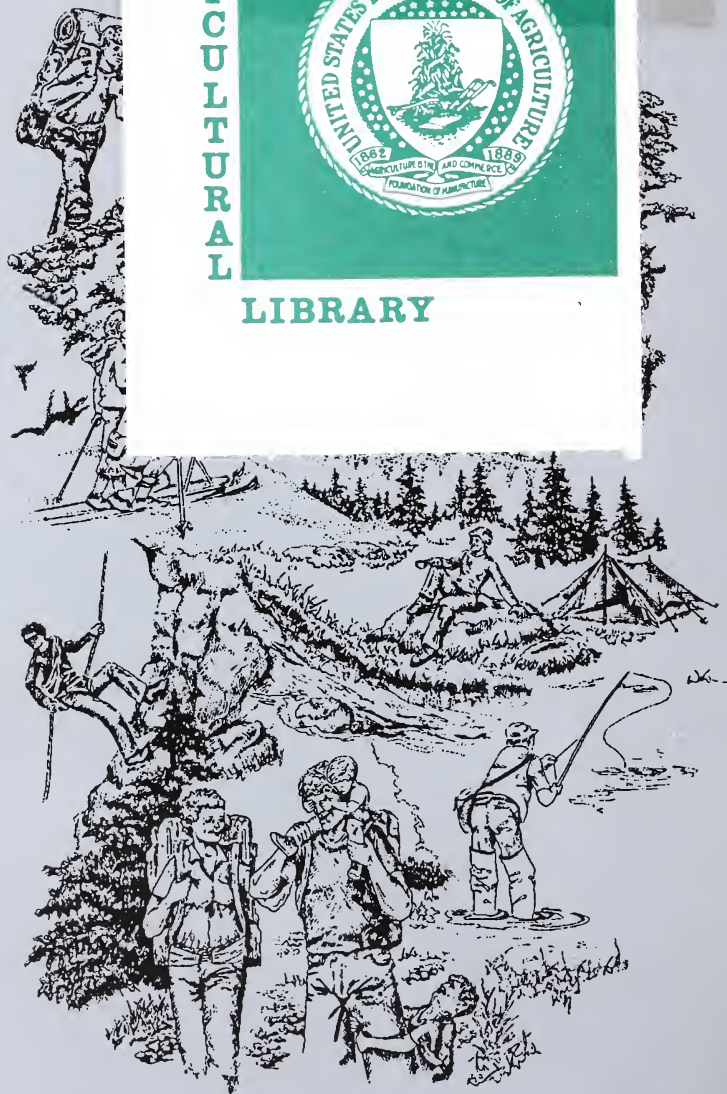
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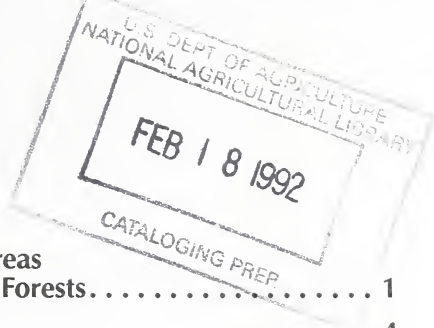


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Wildernesses and Primitive Areas in Southwestern National Forests

Wilderness is many things to many people; it is both a condition of physical geography and a state of mind which varies from one person to another. It provides exercise to the body and stimulus to the mind and acts as a fountain of sustenance and renewal to the soul.

The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture established the Nation's first wilderness near Silver City in southwestern New Mexico, in June 1924. Over 750,000 acres of the Gila National Forest were closed to any development that would change its natural character.

The wilderness concept grew out of a recognized need to retain some of the Nation's primeval characteristics; to provide contrast from asphalt and concrete, the sounds and hurry of civilization, and a special experience for visitors willing to travel by foot or horseback.

As early as the 19th century, citizens and conservationists were expressing concern about the encroachment of civilization on our wild lands. They recognized that without protection, little would remain of this natural resource. The movement to preserve these lands led to the beginning of the National Forest System in the United States. The Forest Reserve Act of 1891 authorized the President to withdraw portions of the public domain for forest reserves.

The Forest Service was created in 1905 to manage the lands that had been set aside under the 1891 Act. The primary consideration of the new agency was not to lock up forests but rather to determine how best to combine use with conservation.

Subsequent legislation provided the authority for the Forest Service to determine priorities of land use for those lands under its jurisdiction. This was the beginning of the Forest Service concept of wilderness land management. Those lands predominantly valuable for their timeless natural characteristics or their opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation were designated administratively as wilderness.

When it passed the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960, Congress set another milestone in conservation of the Nation's natural resources. The law redefined the functions of the National Forests to properly and legally encompass all their uses in the context of modern needs and it recognized that wilderness management is part of forestry and is a compatible and complimentary function of all other fitting uses of the land. Wilderness provides a habitat for wildlife, opportunities for hunting, fishing, scientific research, exercise, and other enjoyment of the outdoors.

The Wilderness Act which created the National Wilderness Preservation System was passed by Congress in 1964 and on September 3, the President signed it into law. The legislation stated that wilderness is "an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." It provided for use and enjoyment of wilderness, but in a manner that leaves such areas unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness.

Although the Wilderness Act defines (in part) a wilderness as an area of undeveloped Federal land that "generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of Nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable," it includes provisions to allow such activities as stock grazing, trail building, and mining.

The Wilderness Act will ensure a lasting resource of wilderness for the United States.

It directs and challenges three Federal agencies—the Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service—and the two departments, Agriculture and Interior, of which they are a part, to interpret the mandate of Congress and to fulfill their responsibilities with vision and skill. A latter act, FLMPA of 1976, included the Bureau of Land Management under the provision of the Wilderness Act.

It challenges the Congress itself, for the Act provides that future additions to the system may be made only by Congress.

Above all, the Act challenges the people; provides for public participation and understanding. Before additions, deletions or changes are made, they must be aired before the people, and the ultimate decision in each case is based on active public interest and involvement.

Wilderness helped to shape our national character as our ancestors met and conquered its challenge. The National Wilderness Preservation System assures all future Americans of a continuing opportunity to test their pioneering skills.

Accordingly, when visitors enter a National Forest wilderness they must expect no piped water, no prepared shelters, no toilet facilities, no tables, and no grills to hold cooking utensils. There will be trail signs, but all users will be on their own in a sometimes alien and unfamiliar environment. Only non-mechanized transportation, such as pack stock or foot travel can be used.

The Forest Service is proud of the part it has played in protecting the wilderness resource while making it available for public use. For many years the agency has encouraged enjoyment of wilderness. Trails for hikers and horseback riders have been constructed and maps made available to guide users and point out areas of interest. Various publications have been provided to assist in making the wilderness experience available and more enjoyable. There are also a number of films available for loan to organizations and groups.

Americans have learned to harness the forces of nature to serve our material needs. We have learned how to cultivate and utilize nature. We have learned the delights of transplanting the essence of nature into our homes and everyday lives through gardening. We also have learned that raw and untamed nature has a place and purpose in our lives.

Until recent times, wilderness required little management because it was little used. But with the continual acceleration in use, human actions now must be disciplined so that the wild will remain in wilderness. Some wilderness visitors are inclined to regard the land in terms of their particular interests, whether it be hunting, hiking, or some other form of recreation. They may find disappointment, for the Wilderness Act transcends all single interests. It directs the Forest Service to manage wilderness as a resource, in which naturalness is perpetuated.

Wilderness is part and parcel of democracy—of the heritage, of the progress, of the expression of America that touches the mind, heart, and soul in a special way known only to each individual.

In this nation, wilderness now belongs to the generations yet to come. One generation, one century, one thousand years from now a thoughtful American community may decree for an altogether different role for wilderness.

Southwestern Region

The variety of wilderness environments of the 51 wildernesses and one primitive area in the Southwestern Region is unmatched. These areas range from the stark beauty of Arizona desert through the greenery of dense coniferous forests and upward to rocky spires above timberline in northern New Mexico. Here one may enjoy the pleasures of wilderness hunting, fishing, hiking, climbing, camping, or just relaxing in undisturbed natural areas.

Remember, these are your lands. Their future as unique resources managed for other than material products depends on the personal behavior of visitors and the support of wilderness management by non-users.

Among wilderness management concepts is that of prescribed fire. Natural fires kept wilderness healthy before the Forest Service and other Federal and state agencies started suppressing them in the early 1900's. Now many wildernesses are choked by brush, duff and undergrowth. The continued growth of these fuels creates unnatural and potentially hazardous conditions. Fires may be beneficial when an overabundance of fuels has accumulated on the forest floor.

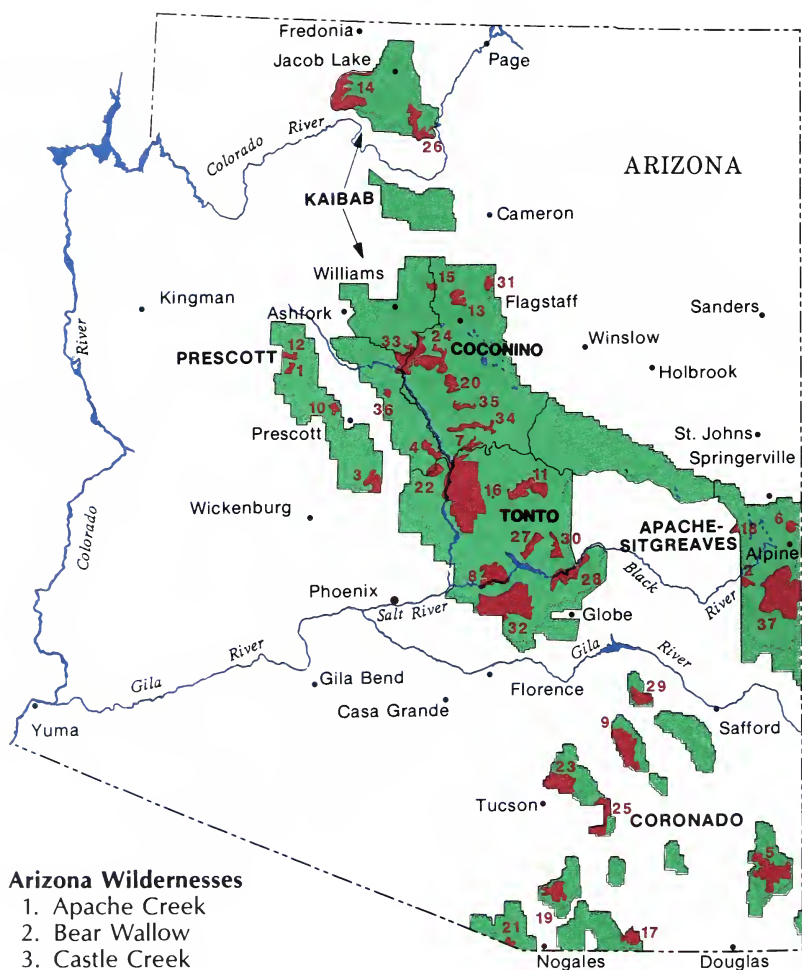
A prescribed fire policy is being implemented on several Southwestern wildernesses. Two types of prescribed fires may be approved for use within wilderness: those ignited by lightning and allowed to burn under prescribed conditions and those ignited by qualified Forest Service officers. Wilderness managers determine that conditions are right for a beneficial burn, and the fire and weather conditions are monitored while the fire is allowed to burn. Dangerous fuel accumulations are reduced and the area resumes a more natural appearance and function.

Personal ethics for back-country or wilderness use include careful trip planning, proper disposal of wastes, minimum use of campfires, dispersal of fire rings, and the overall practice of minimum-impact travel and overnight stops. Sufficient potable water supplies are in short supply throughout many southwestern wildernesses. Each individual will need a minimum of two liters of water per day. All water sources should be treated, even spring water. Many cases of giardia have been reported from drinking untreated water from heavily used sources. Boiling water the specified amounts of time, based on elevation, is one recommended method. Some good, new backpacker

filters and treatment chemicals on the market have been approved by testing agencies as effective in treating giardia.

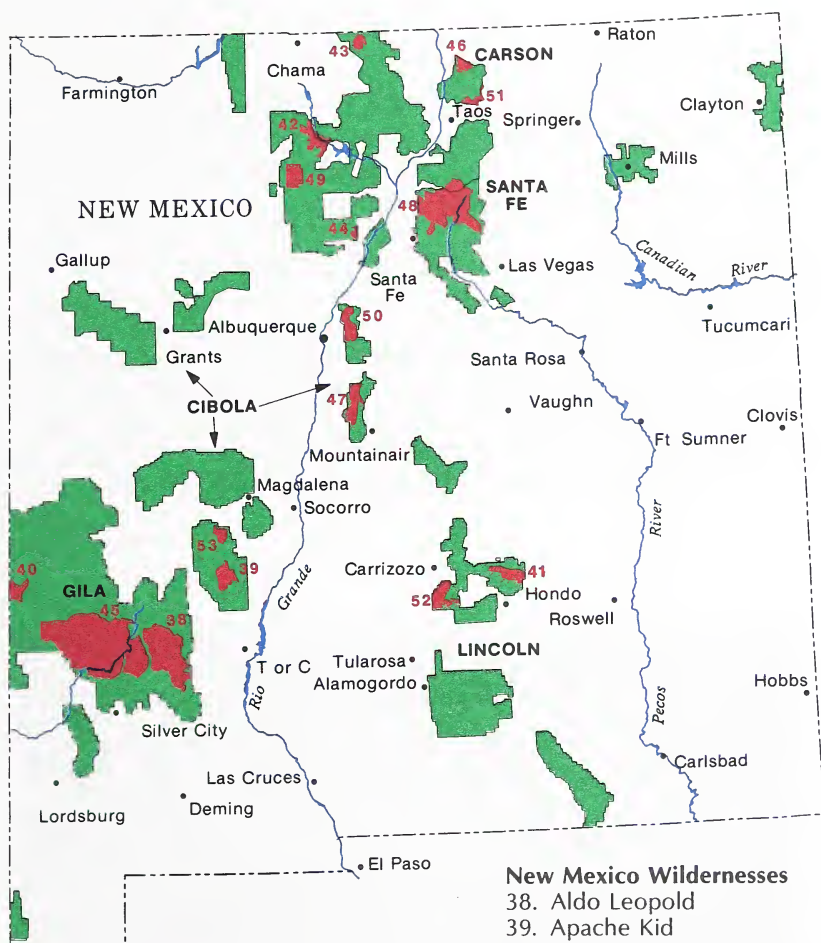
An area of long ago human occupation may be wilderness today. Sites once occupied by prehistoric Indians have scientific value. Ruins of their homes, quarries, and other evidence of past use can be found by archeologists. Historians refer to structures of a later period to confirm written records. Wilderness users can enjoy a glimpse into the past at such sites. Visitors are welcome there and can help preserve them for the future by reporting illegal excavations, collecting, and other deprecations.

Forest Service offices should be contacted for reliable sources of information about climatic conditions, trails, water sources, maps, permits, hazards, and points of interest.



Arizona Wildernesses

1. Apache Creek
2. Bear Wallow
3. Castle Creek
4. Cedar Bench
5. Chiricahua
6. Escudilla
7. Fossil Springs
8. Four Peaks
9. Galiuro
10. Granite Mountain
11. Hellsgate
12. Juniper Mesa
13. Kachina Peaks
14. Kanab Creek
15. Kendrick Mountain
16. Mazatzal
17. Miller Peak
18. Mt. Baldy
19. Mt. Wrightson
20. Munds Mountain
21. Pajarita
22. Pine Mountain
23. Pusch Ridge
24. Red Rock — Secret Mountain
25. Rincon Mountain
26. Saddle Mountain
27. Salome
28. Salt River Canyon



- 29. Santa Teresa
- 30. Sierra Ancha
- 31. Strawberry Crater
- 32. Superstition
- 33. Sycamore Canyon
- 34. West Clear Creek
- 35. Wet Beaver
- 36. Woodchute

Arizona Primitive Area

- 37. Blue Range

New Mexico Wildernesses

- 38. Aldo Leopold
- 39. Apache Kid
- 40. Blue Range
- 41. Capitan Mountain
- 42. Chama River Canyon
- 43. Cruces Basin
- 44. Dome
- 45. Gila
- 46. Latir Peak
- 47. Manzano Mountain
- 48. Pecos
- 49. San Pedro Parks
- 50. Sandia Mountain
- 51. Wheeler Peak
- 52. White Mountain
- 53. Withington

Arizona Wildernesses

Apache Creek Wilderness

Rolling hills of juniper and piñon interspersed with granite outcrops characterize this small, remote and relatively rugged wilderness. Established in 1984, the 5,420-acre Apache Creek Wilderness features three natural springs and several important riparian areas including Apache Creek. Elevations range between 5,200 feet and 7,200 feet and the area provides excellent habitat for mountain lion and numerous bird species.

There are no maintained wilderness trails or public access points currently in existence. It is recommended that topographic maps be studied prior to a visit. Additional information concerning the Apache Creek Wilderness may be obtained from the Prescott National Forest Supervisor's Office in Prescott or the Chino Valley Ranger District, P.O. Box 485, Chino Valley, AZ 86323, Phone: (602) 636-2302.



Bear Wallow Wilderness

This newly established wilderness in eastern Arizona boasts some of the largest acreage of virgin ponderosa pine in the Southwest. Only a few trails provide access into and within this area, and only limited grazing of domestic livestock in the west half has kept this area unspoiled.

Beautiful Bear Wallow Creek flows throughout the year, providing suitable habitat for the endangered Apache trout. Wildlife is abundant throughout the area. A majestic view from atop Mogollon Rim is available to the hiker from the Rim Trail on the southern boundary of the wilderness.

Information concerning this 11,080-acre wilderness is available from the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests' Alpine Ranger District, P.O. Box 469, Alpine, AZ 85920, Phone: (602) 339-4384.



Castle Creek Wilderness

Castle Creek Wilderness is situated on the eastern slopes of the Bradshaw Mountains and is characterized by extremely rugged topography with prominent granite peaks that overlook the Agua Fria River.

Created in 1984, Castle Creek Wilderness contains approximately 29,770 acres which range between 2,800 feet and 7,000 feet in elevation. At the lower elevations, saguaro cactus, palo verde, and mesquite are the principal vegetative overstory species. As the elevation increases, grassland species change into the chaparral community and the highest elevations have ponderosa pine, Arizona whiteoak, and alligator juniper.

Additional information concerning Castle Creek Wilderness may be obtained from the Prescott National Forest Supervisor's Office in Prescott or the Bradshaw Ranger District, 2230 E. Hwy. 69, Prescott, AZ 86301, Phone: (602) 445-7253.

Cedar Bench Wilderness

Located along a broad northwest-southeast trending ridge, the 14,840 acres that comprise the Cedar Bench Wilderness occupy the dividing line between the Verde and Agua Fria drainages. Elevations range between 4,500 feet and 6,700 feet with the principal vegetative cover being chaparral with lesser amounts of piñon pine and Utah juniper. The Verde Wild and Scenic River forms a portion of the eastern boundary of the Cedar Bench Wilderness.

Additional information concerning the Cedar Bench Wilderness may be obtained by contacting the Prescott National Forest Supervisor's Office in Prescott or the Verde Ranger District, P.O. Box 670, Camp Verde, AZ 86322-0670, Phone: (602) 567-4121.



Chiricahua Wilderness

Established in 1933 at 18,000 acres, Chiricahua Wilderness was greatly expanded by the 1984 Arizona Wilderness Act and now encompasses 87,700 acres within the Chiricahua Mountains. There is wide variation in elevation, exposure, slope, moisture, and related plant and animal life. There are many unusual birds which are more common in Mexico.

More than a century ago the mountains were hunting grounds for Cochise and Geronimo. From here Cochise and his followers defended their homeland with surprise attacks on pioneer settlements, travelers, and Army troops. Later, the mountains were part of the short-lived Chiricahua Apache Reservation.

Because of dense brush and timber, steep slopes, precipitous canyons and uncertain water, travel is difficult except on the well-developed trail system. Campgrounds outside the boundaries provide good access for day hiking. The wilderness is administered by the Douglas Ranger District, Coronado National Forest. Further information can be obtained from the Douglas Ranger District, R.R. 1, Box 228-R, Douglas, AZ 85607, Phone: (602) 364-3468.



Escudilla Wilderness

Escudilla Wilderness, designated in 1984 and containing 5,200 acres, lies atop Arizona's third highest peak, Escudilla Mountain. Its 10,912-foot elevation provides marvelous vistas. It is home to several pristine, high elevation meadows which are comprised of relatively rare plant associations. Notable landmarks in or just outside the wilderness include Profanity Ridge, Terry Flat, Toolbox Draw, and the Punchbowl.

A trail takes the visitor to Escudilla Lookout where vistas many miles distant can be absorbed. Because of the relative scarcity of water and the small size of this wilderness, day use is encouraged.

Information on trail conditions, maps, water, and other matters of interest to visitors are available from the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests' Alpine Ranger District, P.O. Box 469, Alpine, AZ 85920, Phone: (602) 339-4384.



Fossil Springs Wilderness

The springs are located at the bottom of a steep, wide canyon approximately 1,600 feet down at the edge of the Colorado Plateau, approximately 60 miles south of Flagstaff.

The Fossil Springs Botanical Area adjacent to the wilderness has been described as one of the most diverse riparian areas in the state. Over 30 species of trees and shrubs provide striking contrast to the surrounding desert shrub zone. The vegetative diversity creates many wildlife niches for deer, javelina, and 100 species of birds.

The area is one that has retained its integrity as an outstanding clean, pristine site. The Mail Trail and Fossil Spring Trail are within the Fossil Springs Wilderness.

Additional information can be obtained from Beaver Creek Ranger District, H.C. 64, Box 240, Rimrock, AZ 86335, Phone: (602) 567-4501.



Four Peaks Wilderness

Four Peaks Wilderness was established in 1984, and contains approximately 60,740 acres with a major mountain rising up in its center from the desert foothills. The Four Peaks themselves are visible for many miles, and the rapid change in elevation produces interesting plant combinations. Elevations range from 1,900 feet near Apache Lake to 7,600 feet on Brown's Peak.

Visits to some parts of this wilderness can be made throughout the year, using a rather extensive trail system. A Recreation Opportunity Guide is available which gives directions to trailheads and describes each trail. Copies are available from the Tonto National Forest, Mesa Ranger District, P.O. Box 5800, 26 N. MacDonald, Mesa, AZ 85211-5800, Phone: (602) 835-1161.



Galiuro Wilderness

Located about 50 airline miles northeast of Tucson, the remote Galiuro Wilderness is accessible only by dirt roads. Congress set aside 52,717 acres in 1932 and then enlarged it to 76,317 acres in 1984. Administered by the Safford Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest, the Galiuro Mountains are a very steep, rugged range.

In spite of the fact that the Galiuros are lower in elevation than some surrounding mountain ranges, they offer a surprisingly rich variety of plant life. Grasses and evergreen oaks extend to the lower slopes, and ponderosa pine cloak the higher peaks. Douglas-fir and maple grow in the limited cooler, moist sites, and one grove of aspen exists on the northern side of 7,663-foot Bassett Peak, the Galiuros' highest point.

Maintained trails should be followed, since off-trail hiking is extremely difficult due to rough terrain and dense vegetation. For the hunter, this remote wilderness offers a truly rugged outdoor experience.

Additional information is available from the Safford Ranger District, P.O. Box 709, Safford, AZ 85548-0709, Phone: (602) 428-4150.



Granite Mountain Wilderness

The 9,700 acres that comprise the Granite Mountain Wilderness are characterized by the rugged vision of granite boulders, some the size of a house, stacked one atop the other to elevations that exceed 7,600 feet. Created in 1984, Granite Mountain Wilderness is an easily identifiable landmark located on the outskirts of Prescott.

Campground and picnic facilities are located at the base of Granite Mountain and a trailhead facility there provides easy access to the wilderness.

Additional information concerning Granite Mountain Wilderness may be obtained from the Prescott National Forest Supervisor's Office or the Bradshaw Ranger District, 2230 E. Hwy. 69, Prescott, AZ 86301, Phone: (602) 445-7253.



Hellsgate Wilderness

This wilderness was established in 1984, and contains approximately 37,440 rough acres with a major canyon and perennial stream extending its entire length. Deep pools of water are sometimes separated by impassable falls. Elevations range from 3,000 feet along the lower end of Tonto Creek to 6,400 feet on Horse Mountain. Spring and fall are ideal times to visit this area, however trails are rare and access is limited.

A Recreation Opportunity Guide is available from the Payson Ranger District of the Tonto National Forest, 1009 E. Highway 260, Payson, AZ 85541, Phone: (602) 474-2269.



Juniper Mesa Wilderness

Established in 1984, the 7,640-acre Juniper Mesa Wilderness is characterized by the flat topped mesa from which the wilderness derived its name. The steep southern slopes are covered principally with piñon pines and Utah juniper, and the northern slopes are predominantly vegetated by ponderosa pine and alligator juniper.

A great variety of wildlife can be found in the area. Black bear, mule deer, bobcat, and Abert's squirrel are relatively common. There are no perennial water sources present, and the reliability of springs may be questioned during long periods of dry weather.

There are maintained wilderness trails and public access points currently in existence. It is recommended that topographic maps be studied prior to a visit. Additional information concerning the Juniper Mesa Wilderness may be obtained from the Prescott National Forest Supervisor's Office in Prescott or the Chino Valley Ranger District, P.O. Box 485, Chino Valley, AZ 86323, Phone: (602) 636-2302.



Kachina Peaks Wilderness

Located just north of Flagstaff, the Kachina Peaks Wilderness is part of a large, heavily vegetated composite volcano 7,400 to 12,643 feet high including Humphreys Peak, the highest point in Arizona. The "Peaks" exhibit a rich diversity of past geologic events such as lava flows, violent volcanic explosions, glaciation, erosion, and frost action.

The only Arctic-Alpine vegetation in the state is found on the Peaks in a fragile 2-square mile zone and contains a threatened plant: *Senecio franciscanus*. Visitors must stay on designated trails and there is no camping allowed above timberline.

The Peaks are outstanding examples of past volcanic activity and preserve the best example of Ice Age glaciation in Arizona in lateral and medial moraines and former stream beds.

Recreational opportunities include day hiking, backpacking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, winter camping, snow and ice climbing, small and big game hunting, and natural history appreciation.

The Peaks are sacred to several western Indian tribes including the Zuni, Havasupai, Hopi and Navajo. A number of religious shrines have been documented. These shrines have historic and religious value and are currently used. Please respect their religious rights while visiting this wilderness and do not disturb any features.

Information and maps are available from the Peaks Ranger District, 5075 N. Hwy. 89, Flagstaff, AZ 86004, Phone: (602) 526-0866.



Kanab Creek Wilderness

Kanab Creek Wilderness lies in the southwestern corner of the North Kaibab Ranger District and abuts the western edge of the Kaibab plateau. Kanab Creek is one of the major tributaries of the Colorado River, with its origin some 50 miles north in southern Utah. Kanab Creek and its tributaries have cut a network of vertical-walled gorges deep into the Kanab and Kaibab plateaus. Within these walls lie a maze of water and wind carved fins, knobs, potholes and indescribable sculptured forms. Elevations range from near 2,000 feet at the river to 6,000 feet at rim's edge. The upper reaches serve as a winter range for the famed Kaibab mule deer. Vegetation is varied and sparse except for heavy riparian growth in the creek bottom. There is very little dependable water supply for man or beast during summer months when temperatures approach 120 degrees. There are numerous trails in this rather hostile environment, but many are poorly marked and infrequently maintained. Limited and arduous access to the area adds

a measure of remoteness that says this is wilderness.

Additional information is available from the Kaibab National Forest Supervisor's Office in Williams or the North Kaibab Ranger District, P.O. Box 248, Fredonia, AZ 86022, Phone: (602) 643-7395.



Kendrick Mountain Wilderness

Kendrick Mountain Wilderness is located on the eastern edge of the Chalender Ranger District, straddling a boundary with Coconino National Forest.

Kendrick Mountain is one of many remnants of the vast San Francisco Mountain volcanic field that stretches from near Seligman on the west and east beyond Flagstaff to Canyon Diablo. Kendrick Mountain, with an elevation of 10,418 feet is forested to the very top with ponderosa pine, fir, spruce, oak and aspen. Much of the steeper parts of Kendrick contain old growth forest that contributes valuable habitat for the spotted owl, bear, and goshawk. The north and west slope, with large meadows, is a preferred area for elk and deer. There are three well established trails on Kendrick Mountain that offer fantastic views of



canyon lands on the north, striking panoramic views of the volcanic field, and to the south, the distant red rock of the Oak Creek/Sycamore Canyon country.

Additional information is available from Chalender Ranger District, in Williams, Phone: (602) 635-2676 or the Peaks Ranger District in Flagstaff, Phone: (602) 526-0866.

Mazatzal Wilderness

Known locally as the “Ma-ta-zel” Wilderness, this area embraces the north end of the Mazatzal Range. These are predominantly rough desert mountains, sometimes broken by narrow, vertical-walled canyons. Further west below the brush-covered foothills, the Verde River flows through the Sonoran Desert found there. This river flows through Arizona's only Wild River Area, designated by Congress in 1984.

Elevations range from 1,600 feet along the Verde River to 7,903 feet on Mazatzal Peak. There is an extensive system of trails; their condition varies from very good to poor. Visitors may check with the Cave Creek Ranger District office (Phone: (602) 488-3441) for information about the west side of the wilderness or the Payson Ranger District (Phone: (602) 474-2269) for information on the east side. A Recreation Opportunity Guide is also available.

The Mazatzal Wilderness now contains over 252,500 acres of the Tonto and Coconino National Forests. Established in 1932 and expanded to its present size in 1984, it is the oldest continuously designated wilderness in the Southwest.



Miller Peak Wilderness

Located just six miles south of Sierra Vista in the southern half of the Huachuca Mountains, this 20,190-acre wilderness was established in 1984. Characterized by sheer cliffs many hundreds of feet in height, the area is also known for large, intensive fires. A considerable area once covered by pine and Douglas-fir has, at least temporarily, been converted to oak and grass vegetation.

Miller Peak Wilderness is one of the most rugged, wildlife-filled areas in all of southern Arizona. Elevations range from 5,200 feet to 9,466 feet at Miller Peak itself. Well-maintained trails go to the unit's major points of interest and lead to some of the most exceptional panoramas in Southern Arizona. The Huachucas are famous as a haven for bird life, and more than 170 species, including 14 species of hummingbirds, have been observed. More than 60 species of reptiles and 78 species of mammals also are found in this range.

The area has a rich and colorful mining and ranching history, with some remains of old mining operations still visible. There are several parcels of private, patented mining claims within the wilderness.

Additional information is available from the Coronado National Forest's Sierra Vista Ranger District, 5990 S. Hwy. 92, Hereford, AZ 85615, Phone: (602) 378-0311.



Mt. Baldy Wilderness

At 7,000 acres, Mount Baldy is one of the smallest wildernesses. This, coupled with its great popularity, has forced limits to be placed on the size of groups using the area. Hiking and riding groups should not exceed 12 persons and the maximum number in a group for overnight camping is 6.

Two trails, each approximately 7 miles long, lead into the wilderness and join each other near the top. The half-mile spur trail which leads to the summit and the summit itself are on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. The Mt. Baldy summit has religious significance and has been closed by the Apaches. Anyone entering is subject to arrest by tribal law enforcement officers.

From 8,700 feet to 11,000 feet, the topography varies from gently sloping timbered benches to extremely steep, rockstrewn mountainsides cut by deep canyons. Big game is common and there are 5 miles of fishing stream. The wilderness is administered by the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, Springerville Ranger District, P.O. Box 640, Springerville, AZ 85938, Phone: (602) 333-4372.



Mount Wrightson Wilderness

Lying at the core of the Santa Rita Mountains about 30 miles south of Tucson, this 25,260-acre area was dedicated by the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984.

Surrounded on all sides by semi-arid hills and sloping savannah, the center of the wilderness is striking Mt. Wrightson, which at 9,453 feet is the highest point in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties. Its majesty is accentuated by the fact that it rises a full 7,000 feet above the valley floor and can be seen from Tucson and surrounding communities.

Mt. Wrightson's stream-fed canyons are the source of an exceptional abundance of animal and plant life. Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir dominate the higher elevations. Rough hillsides, deep canyons, and lofty ridges and peaks characterize the wilderness throughout. It is an extremely well-known area for bird-watchers, backpackers, and other outdoor enthusiasts. A developed recreation area in Madera Canyon lies at the foot of the wilderness, and the area is internationally renowned as a unique habitat for a variety of both common and rare birds.

The Nogales Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest manages the area and can be contacted for further information at 2251 N. Grand Avenue, Nogales, AZ 85621, Phone: (602) 281-2296.



Munds Mountain Wilderness

Munds Mountain Wilderness preserves many of the unique red rock formations just east of Sedona, as well as some of the traditional high mesas common to the area. Elevations range from 3,600 feet to 6,800 feet. The country is characterized by moderate to steep slopes along Mogollon Rim.

Munds and Lee Mountains are unique geologic areas along the Mogollon Rim, including extensive outcroppings of Coconino and Supai sandstone on the cliff faces, and ramp basalt flows throughout.

There is a great diversity of vegetation and wildlife species and outstanding riparian habitat in upper Woods Canyon. Desert sagebrush, desert grass and short grass plains, oak brush, chaparral, oak woodland, and piñon-juniper woodland types are common. There are small concentrations of ponderosa pine, and the major drainages contain vital riparian zones.

This wilderness is perfect for those who enjoy more primitive recreation such as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, swimming, bird watching, rock climbing, and hunting. The area is a photographers delight due to the red rock formations and rugged vistas.

Information and maps are available from the Sedona Ranger District, P.O. Box 300, Sedona, AZ 86336, Phone: (602) 282-4119.



Pajarita Wilderness

Administered by the Nogales Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest, this area was established as wilderness in 1984. Located approximately 15 miles west of Nogales, the only access is Ruby Road which is unpaved for much of its length.

Although comprising only 7,420 acres, the area is extremely important to wildlife and plant life. Hugging the international border with Mexico, Pajarita's canyons—principally Sycamore Canyon—provide an important corridor for wildlife migration north and south. Sycamore Canyon is widely known and esteemed both as a popular hiking spot and even more importantly, as the habitat for rare and unusual plants and animals too numerous to list.

Pajarita is the only non-mountainous wilderness within the Coronado National Forest. Although in an area of rolling hills with elevations ranging from 3,800 to 4,800 feet, the terrain within the canyons is rough with steep slopes and vertical cliffs. Vegetation is largely oak woodland, with riparian zones along the narrow canyon bottoms. Abundant wildflowers put on an annual display of color extremely popular with photographers.

Additional information is available from the Nogales Ranger District, 2251 N. Grand Avenue, Nogales, AZ 85621, Phone: (602) 281-2296.



Pine Mt. Wilderness

This 20,100-acre wilderness straddles the boundary between the Prescott and Tonto National Forests. Maps and other information are available from the Verde Ranger District, P.O. Box 670, Camp Verde, AZ 86322-0670, Phone: (602) 567-4121. There are good trails in parts of the area, but water scarcity limits camping.

Lying along the high Verde River rim, the area stands as an island of tall, green timber, surrounded by desert mountains with hot, dry mesas and deep canyons. The timber is predominantly ponderosa pine.

A great variety of wildlife and plants unfold as the hiker or rider climbs through several life zones en route to the top of Pine Mountain at 6,800 feet. Big game abounds in the heavy cover on steep slopes and canyons.



Pusch Ridge Wilderness

Pusch Ridge Wilderness extends from the desert floor adjacent to metropolitan Tucson to peaks covered with pine, fir, aspen, and maple. The great variety of vegetation and wildlife found as one ascends from 2,800 to 9,000 feet above sea level is truly remarkable. Lower elevations are extremely steep and rugged with spectacular rocky bluffs and peaks. Water is scarce, but several live streams originating on the highest peaks offer some relief from the essentially dry Santa Catalina Mountains.

There is an extensive trail system, and opportunities exist for day hiking as well as extended backpacking. Access can be gained easily at trailheads near the city, or by driving a paved highway to the upper elevations.

Part of the Coronado National Forest, this 56,933-acre wilderness was created in 1978 and is administered by the Santa Catalina Ranger District, 5700 N. Sabino Canyon Road, Tucson, AZ 85715, Phone: (602) 749-8700.



Red Rock - Secret Mountain Wilderness

Twenty miles south of Flagstaff, Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness includes spectacular red, tan, and buff cliffs that mark the edge of the Colorado Plateau. The country plunges as much as 1,500 feet into canyons that drain into Oak Creek and the Verde River. Secret Mountain and Wilson Mountain are high mesas jutting out into the lower country.

This is an area of great climatic variation. The high rims are cool and moist most of the year, except for May and June. The lower end of the unit near Sedona has a much warmer climate. The wide variety of vegetative types provide habitat for equally diverse wildlife populations. There are at least 250 species of vertebrates in the area including elk, mule and white tail deer, javelina, coyote, rabbit, mountain lion, and bear. Of these, 60 percent depend on the riparian habitat during at least part of their life cycles. The wilderness offers outstanding solitude because of topography and vegetation. Opportunities for primitive recreation are many.

Contact the Peaks Ranger District, 5075 N. Highway 89, Flagstaff, AZ 86004, Phone: (602) 526-0866 for information on the north side. The Sedona Ranger District, P.O. Box 300, Sedona, AZ 86336, Phone: (602) 282-4119, can provide information on the south side.



Rincon Mountain Wilderness

This sharply rising, mountainous wilderness of 38,590 acres was established in 1984 and is located just east of Tucson, embracing three sides of the Saguaro National Monument. In fact, one of the primary functions of the Rincon Wilderness is to complement the Saguaro National Monument and to protect the complete ecosystems found there.

Several trails cross the area, and hikers can quickly find complete solitude in its canyon bottoms or along the ridge lines to the high elevations of the Rincons. However, access to the area is rather difficult. Only four-wheel-drive roads lead to the area except on the east side in Happy Valley, served by Forest Road 35, which is generally passable to conventional vehicles. A well-developed trail system also provides access from the National Monument.

The area is dominated by very rocky, steep terrain with elevations ranging from 3,600 feet to 7,700 feet. At higher elevations, the dramatic rock outcrops and deep canyons make many areas difficult to reach on foot and virtually impossible on horseback. Vegetation varies from desert grassland at the lower elevations to an oak-juniper-piñon pine woodland at higher elevations.

The wilderness is administered by the Santa Catalina Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest. Additional information is available from the district office at 5700 N. Sabino Canyon Road, Tucson, AZ 85715, Phone: (602) 749-8700.



Saddle Mountain Wilderness

Saddle Mountain Wilderness is located in the extreme southeastern portion of the North Kaibab Ranger District. Elevations vary from 6,000 feet on Marble Canyon Rim to 8,000 feet on Saddle Mountain. The name originates from the profile of a prominent ridge that appears from the distance as a saddle, horn and all. The main ridge falls off into sheer walls on the south to form the Nankoweap Rim. The terrain is very steep and rocky and bounded on three sides by steep canyons. A lightning caused fire in 1960 consumed approximately 8,000 acres and set the stage for prime deer habitat. Re-growth has resulted in a dense mass of locust, oak, aspen, elderberry and the re-establishment of a young coniferous forest. The benefit of fire is evidenced by the thriving trophy deer, luring the hunter in search of a total experience of the hunt and challenge of the land. The Saddle Mountain trail that parallels the main ridge offers a sense of confinement, only to be rewarded with spectacular views of the Grand Canyon, Marble Canyon Gorge, Cocks Combs, House Rock Valley and Vermillion Cliffs from vantage points along the trail. The uniqueness of the wilderness is found in a perennial stream in North Canyon, habitat of the threatened Apache trout, and in the upper portion of House Rock Valley where a remnant herd of buffalo roam.

Additional information is available from the North Kaibab Ranger District, P.O. Box 248, Fredonia, AZ 86022, Phone: (602) 643-7395.



Salome Wilderness

This wilderness was established in 1984 and contains approximately 18,530 acres, with a major canyon running practically its entire length. The upper reaches of Salome Creek and Workman Creek are small perennial streams snaking their way through the bottom of this scenic canyon. Inviting pools of water can be found nearly yearlong. Elevations range from 2,600 feet at the lower end of Salome Creek to 6,500 feet on Hopkins Mountain. Spring and fall are ideal times to visit this area; however, trails are rare and access to the wilderness is limited.

Information is available from the Tonto National Forest, Pleasant Valley Ranger District, P.O. Box 450, Young, AZ 85554, Phone: (602) 462-3311.



Salt River Canyon Wilderness

This wilderness contains approximately 32,100 very rugged acres and was established in 1984. The Salt River and its spectacular canyon bisect the wilderness for its entire length. Elevations range from 2,200 feet at the canyon's lower end to 4,200 feet on White Ledge Mountain. This area can be visited practically any time, however there are no maintained trails within the entire wilderness. Travel is basically done by raft or kayak during the short and dangerous river-running season.

Information is available from the Tonto National Forest Supervisor's Office in Phoenix and the Globe Ranger District, Rt. 1, Box 33, Globe, AZ 88501, Phone: (602) 425-7189.



Santa Teresa Wilderness

The Santa Teresas are located on the Coronado National Forest, about 30 miles west of Safford. They are characterized by a network of rugged mountains, deep canyons and large mesas. Elevations rise from less than 4,000 feet in the canyon bottoms to nearly 7,500 feet at the summit of Cottonwood Peak.

The central part of the wilderness is dominated by Holdout and Mud Spring mesas. Holdout Canyon typifies the Santa Teresas because its extreme ruggedness and abundance of caves and alcoves provide extraordinary solitude. The area has several good foot trails leading to major points of interest, but is at present little used due to its remote location and somewhat difficult access over many miles of unpaved roads.

A wide variety of game and non-game animals are present, including black bear and peregrine falcon. The wilderness, consisting of 26,780 acres, is generally dominated by chaparral vegetation with stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir along the north flank and crest of Cottonwood Peak.

Additional information is available from the Safford Ranger District, P.O. Box 709, Safford, AZ 85548-0709, Phone: (602) 428-4150.



Sierra Ancha Wilderness

While not large in acres, this is a very special wilderness which includes precipitious box canyons, high vertical cliffs, and pine-covered mesas.

The extremely rough topography limits (and in some places prohibits) cross-country travel, however there is a good system of trails. Plant and animal species vary from those found on the desert to those found at 8,000 feet. A wide variety of plant and animal species are found here.

First established in 1933, this 20,850-acre wilderness is full of surprises and a pleasure to explore. A Recreation Opportunity Guide is available locally. It is administered by the Pleasant Valley Ranger District, Tonto National Forest, P.O. Box 450, Young, AZ 85554, Phone: 462-3311.



Strawberry Crater Wilderness

Located 20 miles north and east of Flagstaff, Strawberry Crater Wilderness is gently rolling piñon-juniper, cinder terrain, about 5,500 to 6,000 feet elevation. The wilderness is dominated at the southern tip by low cinder cones and cut at the northwestern corner by the rugged lava flow of Strawberry Crater.

Strawberry Crater is part of the San Francisco Mountain volcanic field, which contains some 600 craters and cones, and is itself about 50,000 to 100,000 years old.

This wilderness offers the visitor an excellent opportunity to experience the sense of time and endless horizon presented by piñon-juniper zones. From the many low cinder cones, there are good views of the Painted Desert, Hopi Buttes, and mesas of the Little Colorado River valley. The area offers opportunities for day hiking, backpacking, and camping. There are game animals and small mammals throughout the area. The area presents opportunities for solitude and exploring interesting geological and archeological features. These features, and the twisted, esthetically pleasing junipers, are excellent subjects for the photographer.

Contact the Peaks Ranger District, 5075 N. Hwy. 89, Flagstaff, AZ 86004, Phone: (602) 526-0866, for more information.

Superstition Wilderness

This wilderness was first designated in 1939, and was expanded to its present size in 1984. It now contains approximately 160,200 acres. There is a well-developed trail system, and the western end of the wilderness receives heavy use during the cooler times of the year.

The area is starkly beautiful and often rugged, but can be inhospitable to those not equipped to meet nature on her own terms. Searing heat and a shortage of water are typical conditions in the summer. Bitter cold, torrential rains, and even snowstorms are not uncommon in the winter. To those hardy enough to meet the challenges, this wilderness offers scenic beauty, and a chance to study the many plants and animals indigenous to the area. A Recreation Opportunity Guide is available from the Mesa Ranger District of the Tonto National Forest, P.O. Box 5800, 26 N. MacDonald, Mesa, AZ 85211-5800, Phone: (602) 835-1161.



Sycamore Canyon Wilderness

Established in 1935, this area contains a unique canyon-land environment. The canyon cuts through the Mogollon Rim which marks the southern edge of the Colorado Plateau. It winds for 20 miles along Sycamore Creek and at places stretches 7 miles from rim to rim. Wind and water have exposed 7 geological associations of plants and animals set in a spectacular setting of red sandstone, white limestone, and brown lava.

Camping is limited by the often unreliable water sources. Visitors may get maps and information at Ranger District offices in Prescott, Williams, Flagstaff, and Sedona. Three National Forests, the Prescott, Kaibab, and Coconino share the boundaries and spectacular beauty of this 55,937-acre area.



West Clear Creek Wilderness

Located 25 miles northwest of Camp Verde, West Clear Creek is one of the most rugged, remote canyons in northern Arizona.

Clear Creek Canyon is the longest of the canyons cutting through Mogollon Rim, the edge of the Colorado Plateau.

In spite of the short distance from the northern to southern boundary, the area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation by virtue of the very steep canyon walls. A trail starts at Bull Pen Ranch and follows the creek eastward for a few miles to climb up the northern slope to the rim. This access is fairly easy, even for fishermen or inexperienced hikers. The Maxwell and Tramway Trails provide access from the rim to the canyon bottom.

In the main, narrow part of the canyon, there are no trails. It is necessary to wade or swim in many places when hiking from one end of the canyon to the other so that even the most seasoned hiker will find lots of challenge. The canyon is wild and primitive. Visitors must plan trips carefully.

For more information, contact the Coconino National Forest's Long Valley Ranger District, HC 31, Box 68, Happy Jack, AZ 86024, Phone: (602) 354-2216 or the Beaver Creek Ranger District, HC 64, Box 240, Rimrock, AZ 86335, Phone: (602) 567-4501.



Wet Beaver Wilderness

Wet Beaver is a steep-walled canyon cutting into the rim of the Colorado Plateau. Supai sandstone and shale form striking red cliffs along the lower canyon.

This wilderness is a benchmark of pristine riparian habitats and excellent water quality; an excellent example of one of Arizona's finest and rarest resources, a perennially flowing desert stream. Opportunities for primitive recreation are further enhanced by the narrow twisting character of the canyon which offers seclusion, even with relatively high use. Two major trails, Apache Maid and Bell Trail, offer easy access to the rim country portions of this wilderness.

For more information, contact the Coconino National Forest's Beaver Creek Ranger District, HC 64, Box 240, Rimrock, AZ 86335, Phone: (602) 567-4501.



Woodchute Wilderness

This small wilderness offers relatively easy access and spectacular views of the San Francisco Peaks and panoramic vistas of central Arizona. Created in 1984, the 5,700 acres that comprise the Woodchute Wilderness range in elevation from 5,500 feet to 7,800 feet. Ponderosa pine is the dominate overstory species located at the upper elevations which gradually changes to piñon pine and Utah juniper at the lower and relatively drier elevations.

There are maintained wilderness trails and public access points currently in existence. It is recommended that topographic maps be studied prior to a visit. Additional information concerning Woodchute Wilderness may be obtained from the Chino Valley Ranger District office in Chino Valley, the Verde Ranger District office in Camp Verde or the Prescott National Forest Supervisor's Office in Prescott.

Arizona Primitive Area

Blue Range Primitive Area

This 173,762-acre area, designated in 1933, is now completely within the state of Arizona. The other 29,304-acre portion in New Mexico became the new Blue Range Wilderness with passage of the 1980 New Mexico Wilderness Act.

Lying at the southern edge of the Colorado Plateau, the Blue Range is rugged and beautiful with many geologic and scenic attractions, including timbered ridges and deep canyons. The Mogollon Rim, made famous as the "Tonto Rim" in Zane Grey's books, crosses the area from west to east. This rim, unique both from geological and ecological standpoints, is further enhanced by the spectacular Blue River Canyon and river. There is spruce and fir in the high country, and ponderosa pine, piñon and juniper in lower areas.

Deer, elk, and other big and small game find food and shelter in the primitive area's more remote reaches.

Trail access is fairly good, but prospective visitors are reminded that this is big, rough, generally dry country. Inquire at Ranger District offices at Clifton or Alpine and the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests' offices in Springerville for seasonal information and maps.



New Mexico Wildernesses

Aldo Leopold Wilderness

Aldo Leopold Wilderness is located astride the crest of the Black Range of southwestern New Mexico and is a portion of the original Gila Wilderness fostered by Aldo Leopold. Rising from hot, dry desert and semi-desert the Black Range stands as a prominent land feature from nearly all directions. Aldo Leopold Wilderness is 202,016 acres in size and contains the most rugged and wild portion of this mountain range. The deep canyons and precipitous timbered ridges typical of this area extend to the east, south, and west and support a natural blending of resources making the area outstanding as a wilderness. The mark of man and evidence of his activities are relatively obscure. Over a wide range in elevation, a network of deep canyons, rincons, timbered benches and many high vista points offer solitude and an opportunity for the visitor to escape the clutches of a mechanistic civilization. The superlative beauty of this wild and broken country is a natural setting for spiritual refreshment through self-evaluation.

Maps and additional information can be obtained from the Black Range Ranger District, 1804 Date Street, P.O. Box 431, T or C, NM

87901, Phone:
(505) 894-6677
or the Mimbres
Ranger District,
Box 79,
Mimbres, NM
88049, Phone:
(505) 536-
2250.



Apache Kid Wilderness

This 44,650-acre wilderness designated by Congress in 1980 includes the higher elevations of the southern San Mateo Mountains. The topography is rugged, with many narrow, steep canyons bisecting high mountain peaks. Vegetation includes piñon-juniper in lower elevations; ponderosa pine in middle elevations; and spruce, fir, and aspen in higher elevations.

This wilderness was named after the Apache Kid, a renegade Indian who angered local ranchers with his raids. A posse trailed him to Blue Mountain, killed him, and blazed a nearby tree which is still visible today.

A trail system of 68 miles, one-third of which is in a primitive condition, provides access into the area. Water is limited, to less than a dozen somewhat dependable locations. Information on current conditions can be obtained from the Cibola National Forest's Magdalena Ranger District, Box 45, Magdalena, NM 87825, Phone: (505) 854-2281.



Blue Range Wilderness

The Blue Range Wilderness is located entirely within the State of New Mexico in the Blue Range Mountains approximately 65 miles northwest of Silver City. The famous Mogollon Rim crosses the area from west to east. The area is accessible by forest roads from U.S. 180 on the north and east.

A pleasing mix of all resources combine to make this 29,304-acre area outstanding as a wilderness where the mark of man and his activities is relatively obscure. A visitor can virtually isolate himself from the stresses of modern civilization and gain spiritual refreshment through self-evaluation. The deep, rugged canyons, steep timbered ridges, the sweeping reaches of stark broken country, the solitude and a sense of being close to creation make this area unique in its setting.

Maps and additional information can be obtained from the Gila National Forest's Luna Ranger District, Box 91, Luna, NM 87824, Phone: (505) 547-2612.



Capitan Mountains Wilderness

This area was placed in the National Wilderness Preservation System in 1980. It also includes the location where the nation's fire prevention symbol Smokey Bear was found as a cub in 1951.

Capitan Mountains Wilderness includes 35,822 acres of very rugged terrain which varies from piñon-juniper woodland at 6,500 feet to Douglas-fir at 10,000 feet. This area is well known for its large populations of mule deer and black bear. This small mountain range is unique in that it is one of the few ranges that runs in an east-west direction. The area is also well known for its large populations of mule deer and black bear.

Information and maps of the wilderness and trail system are available from the Lincoln National Forest Supervisors office and the Smokey Bear Ranger District, 901 Mechem Drive, Ruidoso, NM 88345, Phone: (505) 257-4095.



Chama River Canyon Wilderness

This 50,300-acre wilderness created in 1978 includes a 6-mile segment of the Chama River with the many-hued sandstone bluffs rising to high rims on both sides. This river segment is included within the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Trail access is poor. A wide range of elevations and aspects from riverside to canyon rim provides numerous micro climates bearing piñon-juniper woodland, ponderosa pine, and fir. River water levels vary widely as water is held or released by the El Vado Lake dam upstream.

The Coyote Ranger District of the Santa Fe and Canjilon Ranger District of the Carson National Forest are nearest to the wilderness and can supply information. Write or call: Coyote Ranger District, P.O. Box 160, Coyote, NM 87012, Phone: (505) 638-5526; Canjilon Ranger District, P.O. Box 488, Canjilon, NM 87515, Phone: (505) 684-2486.



Cruces Basin Wilderness

This 18,902-acre area is a rolling mountain plateau cut by several perennial streams and is 8,600 to 10,900 feet in elevation. Ridge tops have aspen and spruce-fir and the bottoms are open grasslands. The area is a key elk summer range.

Information on the trail system and water sources can be obtained from the Tres Piedras Ranger District, P.O. Box 728, Tres Piedras, NM 87577, Phone: (505) 758-8678.



Dome Wilderness

This 5,200-acre area is the smallest National Forest wilderness in the southwest. Situated adjacent to Bandelier Wilderness in Bandelier National Monument, the area provides a continuous expanse of primitive canyon-land environments similar to those found within the National Monument. The trail system accessing the area also provides access into the west side of the Bandelier Wilderness with several trailheads located along Forest Road 289. Elevations range from 8,200 feet near St. Peters Dome to 5,800 feet at the base of Sanchez Canyon. Special care should be taken not to disturb the many prehistoric ruins scattered throughout the area.

Additional information may be obtained from the Jemez Ranger District of the Santa Fe National Forest, Jemez Springs, NM 87025, Phone: (505) 829-3535.



Gila Wilderness

The Gila Wilderness is located in southwestern New Mexico, lying west of the Continental Divide in Catron and Grant Counties. It is about 25 miles north of Silver City, 3 miles east of Glenwood, 44 miles south of Reserve, and 22 miles northwest of Mimbres.

Its mosaic of vegetative types, climatic conditions, and topographic features, enriched by abundant solitude, offer a challenge to visitors. The variety of plant and animal life, supported by varied ecologic niches, provides a greater opportunity for informal nature study and scientific study than is available in most southwestern wildernesses. The pleasant blending of natural resources in an untrampled state, where the mark of man and his activities is relatively obscure, makes this wilderness an outstanding area to visit. An extensive trail system provides a variety of hiking and horseback

opportunities within a total land area of 558,065 acres.

Additional information on specific trail opportunities within the vicinity of the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument may be obtained directly from the Gila Visitor Center, Route 11, Box 100, Silver City, NM 88061, Phone: (505) 536-9488.



Latir Peak Wilderness

This wilderness of 20,506 acres makes up the northern tip of the east division of Carson National Forest. With three peaks over 12,500 feet, there is an abundance of alpine-tundra "high country." Most of the area is drained by the Lake Fork of Cabresto Creek which originates at Heart Lake and is impounded just outside the wilderness in Cabresto Lake, the main trailhead for those going into the wilderness. Many species of wildlife indigenous to the Hudsonian zone of the southern Rocky Mountains can be found in this remote and spectacular area. The renowned Latir Lakes are located to the north of this wilderness on private land. Permits to visit these lakes can be purchased by writing or calling RCCLA, Costilla, NM 87524, Phone: (505) 586-0542.

Additional information can be obtained from the Questa Ranger District, P.O. Box 110, Questa, NM 87556, Phone: (505) 586-0520.



Manzano Mountain Wilderness

Occupying mainly the west slope of the Manzano Mountain range, this wilderness ranges from piñon-juniper woodland at 5,000 feet to ponderosa pine and aspen at the 10,000-foot crest. Terrain is steep and rugged, cut with canyons and rock outcrops. A well-developed trail system is little used. Road access to trailheads is good. Camping is limited by a lack of reliable water sources.

The wilderness contains 36,970 acres and was established by Congress in the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978. Administered by the Cibola National Forest, information is also available from the Mountainair and Sandia Ranger District offices. Write or call: Mountainair Ranger District, P.O. Box E, Mountainair, NM 87036, Phone: (505) 847-2990; Sandia Ranger District, 11776 Highway 337, Tijeras, NM 87059, Phone: (505) 281-3304.



Pecos Wilderness

The Pecos Wilderness, designated in 1933 and containing 223,333 acres lies at the southern end of the majestic Sangre de Cristo Mountains, at the headwaters of the Pecos River. From its origin, the Pecos flows 13.5 miles and is designated "wild" in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. It includes some of the most beautiful and scenic country in New Mexico. Excellent fishing and hunting, magnificent scenery, and quiet solitude attract many visitors. Truchas Peak, second highest in New Mexico, provides a challenge for mountain climbers and ecologists who may observe rare species of plants and animals. Many lakes, more than 150 miles of streams, a 100-foot waterfall, and innumerable springs are in the area.

An extensive trail system provides many opportunities for both day use and camping. Camping and other uses at some lakes and other areas are regulated to prevent damage to the fragile environment.

Administered jointly by the Santa Fe and Carson National Forests, the wilderness encompasses parts of the Pecos/Las Vegas, Espanola, and Peñasco Ranger Districts. Maps and information about overnight permits are available at these Forest Service offices.



San Pedro Parks Wilderness

A high, moist plateau of rolling mountaintops with alternating areas of dense spruce and open mountain meadows — this is the 41,132-acre San Pedro Parks Wilderness, created in 1931.

Deer, bear, turkey, grouse, and elk regularly draw hunters. Fishermen rarely leave the small high streams empty-handed. The green beauty of the 10,000-foot-high “parks” is a satisfying reward to the hiker or rider. The many cattle grazing in the area are an attraction to some but can be offensive to many.

A well-developed trail system provides ample opportunities for both day use and camping. There are no jagged peaks or high rock cliffs in San Pedro Parks. Its trails and meadows are often wet and summer showers are common.

Information on wilderness permits, trail conditions, maps, and other matters of interest to visitors are available at the Cuba, Jemez, Coyote, and other district offices of the Santa Fe National Forest.



Sandia Mountain Wilderness

Towering over the city of Albuquerque, the Sandia Mountains have long provided recreation for residents. In 1978, and in later revisions, 37,232 acres were classified as wilderness. The wilderness covers primarily the western slope, but extends east of the crest ridge at the north and south ends of the mountain. The wilderness is split near its center by a corridor used by the Sandia Peak Tramway. The trail system is well developed and receives heavy use. There are limited camping opportunities along trails because of a lack of water.

For more information, contact the Sandia Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest at 11776 Highway 337, Tijeras, NM 87059, Phone: (505) 281-3304.



Wheeler Peak Wilderness

At 19,150 acres, this wilderness offers unique and unusual experiences.

The focal point is Wheeler Peak, 13,161 feet, the highest point in New Mexico. The alpine tundra vegetation that covers Wheeler and other nearby peaks is rare in the Southwest. The plant and animal species found here are limited to the "high country."

Designated in 1960 and increased in size in 1980, the area is the headwater of several streams that are vital to downstream users.

High country travel can be taxing to even well-conditioned persons, so plan trips carefully to enjoy them most.

Although there are many access trails, some traverse private land, so check locally for information. The wilderness is in the Carson National Forest. The Questa Ranger District office can provide information and maps of the area. Write or call: Questa Ranger District, P.O. Box 110, Questa, NM 87556, Phone: (505) 586-0520.



White Mountain Wilderness

This unique botanical area encompasses 48,873 acres and elevation ranges from desert grassland at 6,000 feet to the subalpine at 11,400 feet. It is adjacent to the 12,003-foot Sierra Blanca Peak, the highest in southern New Mexico. The transition through five life zones is one of the most rapid found in any wilderness. The elevation and southern location of this area provide welcome climatic and geographic relief from the surrounding lowlands.

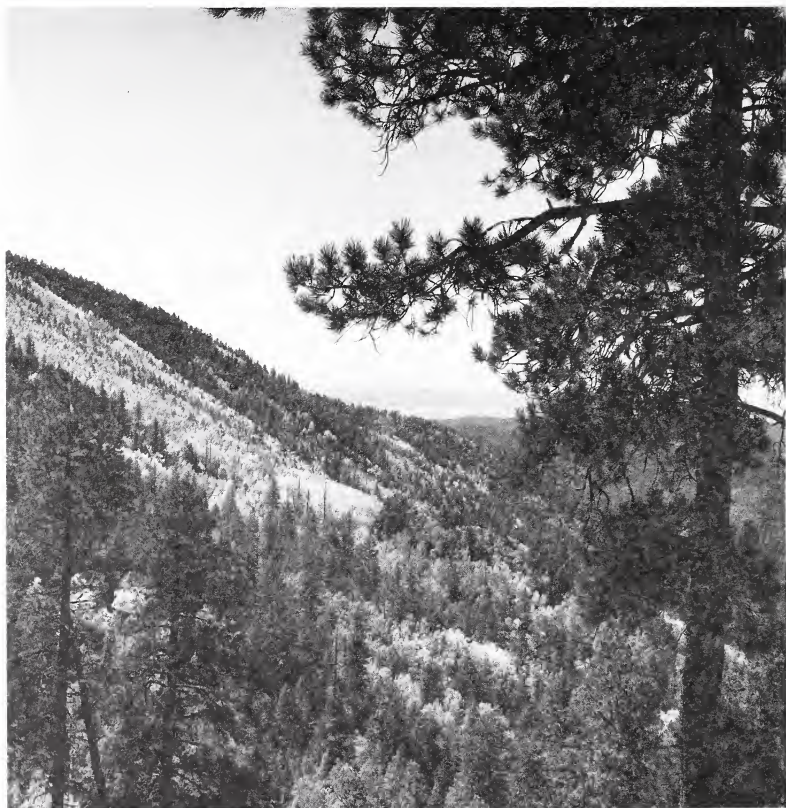
The trail system provides for the short day hike or extended trips of several days. A few small year-round streams and springs furnish water to visitors.

Wilderness information and maps are available at the Smokey Bear Ranger District, 901 Mechem Drive, Ruidoso, NM 88345, Phone: (505) 257-4095, and the Supervisors Office of the Lincoln National Forest in Alamogordo.



Withington Wilderness

Designated by Congress in 1980, this 18,869-acre wilderness consists primarily of a portion of the eastern slopes of the San Mateo Mountains in the northern end of that mountain range. The topography is quite rugged, with elevations varying from 6,800 to 10,100 feet. Vegetation includes piñon-juniper, ponderosa pine, spruce, fir, and aspen. Three trails access this seldom visited area. Camping opportunities are limited by a lack of water sources. The Magdalena Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest administers the area and can be contacted for further information at Box 45, Magdalena, NM 87825, Phone: (505) 854-2281.



Maps, Permits, and Wilderness Use

Forest Service maps of individual wildernesses or National Forest maps which include wildernesses are available from Ranger District offices near wildernesses, Forest Supervisors' offices and the Regional Office in Albuquerque. Map prices vary from \$2 to \$4 depending on the type of map. Most visitor maps are \$2 with some wilderness maps \$4. Occasionally we may be between printings and have only an interim black and white version for you at \$1.

Wildernesses and primitive areas are unique, valuable, fragile lands. Human use grows annually. Protect and use these areas as you would a valuable piece of personal property.

There are many hazards to travel in wilderness. Visitors assume all risks associated with their visit.

Be physically and mentally prepared to enter wildernesses. Leave no evidence of your visit so others may enjoy it unspoiled. Pack out everything you pack in, plus trash left by others less thoughtful.

Additional information is available from the following offices:

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests 309 S. Mountain Avenue U.S. Hwy. 180 P.O. Box 640 Springerville, AZ 85938 (602) 333-4301	Coconino National Forest 2323 E. Greenlaw Lane Flagstaff, AZ 86004 (602) 556-7400
Carson National Forest Forest Service Building P.O. Box 558 112 Cruz Alta Road Taos, NM 87571 (505) 758-6200	Coronado National Forest Federal Building 300 West Congress Tucson, AZ 85701 (602) 670-6483
Cibola National Forest 2113 Osuna Road NE, Suite A Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001 (505) 761-4650	Gila National Forest 2610 North Silver Street Silver City, NM 88061 (505) 388-8201
	Kaibab National Forest 800 S. 6th Street Williams, AZ 86046 (602) 635-2681

Lincoln National Forest
Federal Building
11th and New York
Alamogordo, NM 88310
(505) 437-6030

Prescott National Forest
344 South Cortez Street
Prescott, AZ 86301
(602) 771-4700

Santa Fe National Forest
1220 St. Francis Drive
P.O. Box 1689
Santa Fe, NM 87504
(505) 988-6940

Tonto National Forest
2324 East McDowell Road
P.O. Box 5348
Phoenix, AZ 85010
(602) 225-5200

USDA Forest Service
Public Affairs Office
517 Gold Avenue, SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102
(505) 842-3292



Preserve the Wilderness

Resource

Sanitation

A little effort is all it takes to leave a campsite as clean or cleaner than you found it.

Human waste is no problem if handled right—a monumental problem if not. Nature has provided a system of “biological disposers” that work to decompose organic material in the top six to eight inches of soil. The digging can be a little easier if a lightweight garden trowel is available. Select a spot at least 200 feet from any camp, trails and water sources. Try to keep the sod intact as you dig. After use, fill the hole with loose soil and tamp in the sod.

Stay well away from camps and water sources when washing camp utensils. Soap and detergents are pollutants, so pour waste water on the ground far from lakes and streams.

If pack animals are used, keep them away from water and campsites. Manure breeds insects.

As a general rule avoid heavily used areas. Camp at least 200 feet from main trails, lakes, streams and meadows whenever possible. Bough beds are unnecessary, and leave unsightly litter and damaged trees. A foam pad under a sleeping bag is much more comfortable.

Pack out all garbage, trash and litter. If you packed in a full container, it is much easier to pack it out empty. Burnable trash may be burned in a campfire if you have one, however, watch for foil-backed paper and wet garbage which not only will not burn but will attract animals. Practice dry-camping. Equip yourself with a lightweight water bladder. Fill it at a late afternoon water source and camp a mile or more away. This increases your camping options and gets you away from dampness, bugs, cold, and crowds.

Fire Rules

Petroleum Fueled Stoves

- Use a stove whenever possible. They leave less impact and are more convenient than open fires. They will provide you much more camping flexibility.

Open Fires

- Select a safe place for your open fire.
- Clear an area around the fire to bare dirt; make sure all burnable material is removed. When removing soil, save the sod and

replace it when you leave. Keep your fire small and in a shallow pit or circle of rocks.

- Build the fire on level ground away from steep slopes, rotten logs, stumps, dense dry grass and litter.

- DO NOT build ANY fire on a windy day!

- DO NOT leave a fire unattended at ANY time. To do so violates State and Federal laws.

- Put your fire out — OUT COLD — before you leave. Let the fire burn down, separate the embers, mix and stir the coals with dirt and water if you have it. Make certain the fire is out by feeling it with your hands. Replace the sod and any forest duff material to eradicate any evidence of your fire.

- NEVER bury a fire. It can escape from under the dirt. Keep mixing and stirring until you KNOW it's out.

- SMOKING — If you smoke, smoke safely!

- IN YOUR CAR, always use your ashtray. Never throw burning material out of the car window. Please avoid smoking while driving on unsurfaced forest roads.

- IN THE WOODS, never ride or walk around while smoking. STOP, SIT DOWN, clear a 2-foot spot to bare dirt and use it as your ashtray. Be sure to put all matches, ashes and burning tobacco OUT COLD in the bare spot.

Preserve Your Health and Safety

Safety Tips for the Outdoors

Each year more and more Americans load up their gear and head for the mountains. Those venturing into the rugged wildernesses of the Southwest find deserts, forests and high alpine meadows overshadowed by snow-covered peaks, some more than 13,000 feet high. Here you can travel miles and never see any sign of other visitors. Above timberline and in deserts there is a whole new world of challenges for even the most experienced.

Certain safety procedures should be followed by anyone going into wild country. Failure to observe safety practices leads to accidents and sometimes death. Chances of becoming a statistic in the records of some search and rescue team will be greatly reduced by following these safety suggestions.

Do Not Go Alone

Do not go alone unless you have thoroughly considered the risks and are willing to trade safety in numbers for maximum solitude. A party of at least four persons is recommended. Then if one person is injured, one can remain with the victim, while the others go for help. Try never to leave an injured person alone. He/she may wander off while in shock.

Plan Your Route Carefully Know the Escape Routes!

Plan a route ahead of time using U.S. Geological Survey and USDA Forest Service maps. When traveling on foot above 8,000 feet, allow about one hour for each two miles covered plus an additional hour for each 1,000 feet of altitude gained. At all times know where you are on the map and the best way out to civilization.

Get a Weather Report

Fast-moving frontal systems can bring sudden and violent changes in mountain weather, especially during winter. Always obtain an extended forecast before setting out.

Check with Authorities

Much of the high country in New Mexico and Arizona lies within National Forests. Forest Rangers know their districts and can

offer valuable advice on trails, campsites, and potential problems. The Forest Service requests that visitors register before entering designated wildernesses. Conservation officers with the State game departments also will be glad to help.

Go Properly Equipped

As a rule the most serious dangers are EXTREME HEAT, WIND, COLD, and WETNESS. Even during July it sometimes snows on the high peaks and hard summer rains occur almost daily in the mountains. It is quite possible to die from "exposure," technically hypothermia, at any time of year, especially above timberline (about 11,800 feet). Having warm clothing, even during the summer, is very important. A shirt, sweater, socks, mittens, and cap (all of wool or polypropylene) should always be carried. Even when wet, wool and polypropylene are warm against the skin. For protection against wind and wetness carry a weatherproof outer parka. And don't forget good footwear.

Some bright clothing is appropriate from a safety standpoint, especially during big game hunts. Remember though, bright clothing can also increase your visual presence in the wilderness by impacting someone else's expectations of solitude.

There is usually plenty of wood for fires below timberline. However, open fires may be prohibited by the Forest Service during the fire season. Water is scarce on the ridges and in the deserts—carry plenty.

Personal Backcountry Travel Preparedness

The Ten Essentials

1. Map of the area in which you will be traveling.
2. Compass; a model you know how to use.
3. Flashlight; with fresh batteries.
4. Emergency food.
5. Supplemental clothing (wool hat, gloves, and socks) and shelter (tube tent or space blanket).
6. Sunglasses and sunscreen (sun protection).
7. Knife.
8. Matches; waterproof or in a matchesafe.
9. Firestarter; candle, etc.

10. First aid kit (includes whistle, needles, thread, and safety pins).

The above list varies with the personal preferences of whoever is compiling the list, the season of the year, where you are going, and with whom you are traveling. Therefore, the following is considered to be . . .

The REAL Ten Essentials

1. *Motivation*—a reason for traveling in the mountains, and reasons for wanting to get out again.
2. *Physical Conditioning*—general good health and preparation matched to what you plan to do.
3. *Knowledge of the Area*—acquired through prior study of maps and information on terrain, distances, hazards, etc.
4. *Basic Outdoor Skills*—how to hike, orient oneself, make a fire, cook, maintain warmth, etc.
5. *Mature Judgment*—the ability to decide what is important and what is not, to weigh alternatives and handle emergencies.
6. *Adaptability*—the ability to “make-do,” improvise, and alter plans when necessary.
7. *Outside Contact*—someone who knows your plans and can send help if you are overdue because of accident or other problems.
8. *Adequate Clothing*—sturdy, comfortable clothing suitable for the conditions plus extra items for unforeseen changes.
9. *Food*—simple, nutritious, and sufficient for the trip.
10. *Minimal Equipment*—that which is necessary for carrying, cooking, sleeping, shelter, and personal health or safety.

You and your party are solely responsible for your safety and any emergency evacuation that may be necessary—this is “wilderness.”

Allow Time for Acclimatization

Anyone coming into the high mountains from low altitudes should allow a few days to acclimatize before attempting to climb any of the major peaks. Many people who go too high too fast suffer “mountain sickness.” The symptoms are vomiting, diarrhea, and the

feeling of being very ill. Pulmonary edema, a major medical emergency, also occurs above the 9,000 foot level. The symptoms include extreme fatigue or collapse, shortness of breath, a racking cough, bubbling noises in the chest, and bloody sputum. The victim may die within a matter of hours unless transported to a much lower altitude immediately. If available, administer oxygen.

The following chart lists the approximate length of time one should spend at various altitudes in order to become acclimatized:

Day 1 = 0 ft. - 7,000 ft.
Day 2 = 7,000 ft. - 10,000 ft.
Day 3 = 10,000 ft. - 12,000 ft.
Day 4 = 12,000 ft. - 14,000 ft.

There are several other procedures which, if followed, may also help prevent the "mountain miseries."

- Arrive in good physical condition.
- Get plenty of rest and sleep.
- Avoid alcohol and smoking.

Returning to sea level at the end of a high mountain expedition presents no adjustment problems.

Winter Mountaineering

There is a vast difference between hiking across Wheeler Peak (13,160 feet) or the San Francisco Mountains in July and climbing in January. Any cross-country trip during the winter months should be considered an expedition. Snowshoes or skis with skins are absolutely necessary. Any summit climb above timberline is likely to require crampons, climbing rope, ice axe, and snow goggles. Avalanches are not considered a major danger but they do occur in the high peaks area of New Mexico. Check with Forest Service Rangers or local climbers for advice on hazardous areas before setting out. Each member of a winter expedition should have at least a full 24-hour supply of extra food. Be prepared for temperatures well below zero. Readings of -40 degrees Fahrenheit are not unknown.

Leave Information with Relatives or Friends

A complete itinerary of your trip, along with the names and addresses of each member, description and license numbers of vehicles used, and expected time of return should be left with a reliable person. Anytime a group is seriously overdue, the State Police, County Sheriff, or Forest Service should be called.

Hide Keys Near the Car

Rather than carrying all the car keys with you on the trail hide one set somewhere nearby. Then if an emergency does occur, whoever comes out will always have them at hand.

Learn the Limitations of Each Member

Assess the strengths and weaknesses of each member of the party. Do not try anything beyond the ability of the weakest person and set the pace accordingly. Never be too proud to turn back in the face of overwhelming odds.

Keep the Party Together

Individual members of a group should not be allowed to fall behind the main party or go ahead of it. Many mountaineering fatalities have resulted from disregarding this rule. If the group is large, select one person to set the pace, another to bring up the rear. If hiking in the dark for some reason, assign each member a number and count-off periodically.

Use Caution in Crossing Rivers

Most Southwestern mountain streams are shallow and present few fording problems. However, when crossing any stream where there is the slightest chance of being carried away, always release the waist strap and one shoulder strap of your pack so that it can be jettisoned if necessary. Flash floods occur in the steep, arid canyons and arroyos around the perimeter of the mountains. Avoid camping in these hazardous areas or leaving vehicles parked there.

Beware of Loose Rock

In some areas loose rock can be a serious hazard. Keep your group bunched together when going up or down this type terrain. Never roll rocks down a mountainside. Another party may be below.

Get Off Exposed Ridges During Storms

Summer storms move in fast and are accompanied by rain or hail, high winds, low visibility, and lightning. Do not allow your group to be caught on a peak or exposed ridge. If you are unable to get down in a lightning storm, have the group spread out about 30 feet between each person. Stay away from lone trees or rocks. Avoid shallow caves or depressions. Ground currents may jump from the edge to your body. Insulate yourself from the ground if possible (pack, rope, clothing) and squat down, allowing only your two feet to touch the ground. Do not abandon your metal equipment. It may be needed later on.

Be Prepared for Emergencies on Summit Climbs

Even the highest mountains in Arizona and New Mexico are considered "walk-ups" from a technical standpoint during summer months. Nevertheless, they are above timberline, and they are remote. On long climbs or scrambles above timberline the safe policy is to start for the summit at dawn and turn back about noon, the time when summer storms begin to form. Every summit party should take along emergency gear in case someone is injured. A plastic tube tent, sleeping bag, extra food and water, small gas stove and cook pot, and first aid kit spread among the members will insure the victim of an accident above timberline receives the necessary care until a rescue can be carried out.



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Emergency Signals

The following emergency signals are considered standard by most search and rescue groups:

Distress — 3 evenly spaced signals given within 30 seconds.
Repeat as required.

Acknowledgement — 2 signals given in quick succession.

Return to Camp — 4 evenly spaced signals given within 30 seconds.

Repeat as required.

Full access to all public lands and facilities, and equal opportunity to use them, are guaranteed to all persons regardless of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, physical handicap or marital status. If you feel you have been denied any benefits on these grounds, write directly to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.



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